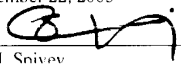




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Date: September 22, 2003

  
Christine M. Spivey

2832\$ CC  
PATENT  
36856.394

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masashi MORIKAMI	Art Unit: 2832
Serial No.: 09/708,817	
Filed: November 8, 2000	Examiner: K. D. Easthom
Title: <b>VARIABLE RESISTOR</b>	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith are copies of three (3) references cited in the Examination Report issued in a corresponding Japanese Patent Application. For the purpose of examination, we have enclosed an English translation of the Japanese Examination Report and a completed Form PTO-1449. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicants certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign

U.S. Serial No. 09/708,817  
September 22, 2003  
Page 2 of 2

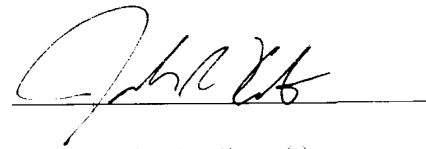
application not more than three months prior to the date of this statement, and that this is the first citation of these prior art references by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application.

Applicants petition the Commissioner to consider this information disclosure statement pursuant to C.F.R. § 1.197(d). Enclosed is a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee. If any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 22, 2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.R. Keating", is written over a horizontal line.

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